

St. Mel Church  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 1, 2024

Members Present:

Fr. Adam Zajac, Pastor	Sally Armstrong
Bill Gerken, Parish Secretary	Natale Badillo
	Rob Cahill
	Patrick Kerrigan
	Susan Mitchell

(Excused: Tom Stamper)

Agenda items discussed:

- Fish Fry update:  
The dates for the fish fry in St. Mel Hall will be Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. There were many people who expressed their interest in volunteering at the January meeting, but if anyone would still like to express their interest in volunteering, please feel free to contact the parish office.
- Deanery update:  
There will be a “deanery” (diocesan district) restructuring soon, resulting in districts (“deanerys”) that will be a lot larger than they have been in the past. Our deanery district is presently known as “Cleveland Northwest”.

There will be a “dean” (typically a senior pastor with years of pastoral experience) that will be appointed by the diocese to each district, who is responsible for 1) meeting with their deanery area regularly (typically once per month) to handle questions and concerns from their communities; and 2) keep in regular contact with the bishop regarding those questions and concerns. There is also typically a co-chair (usually an experienced lay person) who works in tandem with the appointed dean.

The deans and co-chairs will be elected by the Cleveland Diocese this summer. The deans are scheduled to visit each parish in their designated region once every three years, which also includes the designated dean being available to meet each local pastoral council. The goal of the deanery model is to 1) provide

better, more immediate assistance to local parish communities; and 2) provide better collaboration between parishes in the region.

➤ Deacon Dave update:

Deacon Dave is currently experiencing health difficulties which have become more serious than initially expected. Fr. Adam shared an update with difficult news regarding Deacon Dave's health (which was done with Deacon Dave's permission). Please keep Deacon Dave, his family, and our church communities at St. Mark and St. Mel in prayer as we experience this challenging time together.

➤ Pastoral Council Elections:

There will be three pastoral council seats that will become vacant within the next few months, due to the service terms of three council members ending in 2024. After Easter, Fr. Adam will be accepting nominations for potential new members to fill the three vacancies. When the time comes, please share the names for your new nominations with Fr. Adam, current Pastoral Council members, or by calling the Parish office to submit them.

Once the potential nominees have confirmed their interest, we will ask them to submit their picture with a short introductory statement (just a few sentences about themselves) so that others in the parish can get to know them and "connect a name with a familiar face". This will most likely happen during the month of April. Pastoral Council elections will be held in May.

After the new members have been elected, we will likely have a joint Pastoral Council meeting this summer to say farewell to outgoing members and welcome the newly elected members.

➤ Other Topics—Hall Rental:

The St. Mel Hall is available for rental. Catering options through St. Mel Hall are also available for your events, but it is also acceptable to rent the hall and utilize your own catering options. Please feel free to call the parish office during regular business hours for more detailed information.

Thank you everyone, for attending and for all your input!

- Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday March 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Upcoming Pastoral Council meeting dates:

- Thursday May 9, 2024
- Summer Pastoral Council Meeting—to be announced at a later date

